

AGRICULTURAL

Stock on a Farm—A Mixed Husbandry.

"The constant raising of grain is a continual drain upon the land, and will in time, wear it out, let it be ever so fertile."—(Old Firkin.)

We know that gypsum stimulates the growth of both grass and grain. That it is essential in certain conditions of soil is sure. Its effect is to secure a supply of ammonia for the plant. That it affects the fertility of the soil permanently is doubted. Guano is a stimulant, and an unhealthful one, when applied continually and with no other manure. The principle of putting on the ground what is taken from it, or its representative is the only safe process for the farmer. This can only be done by keeping stock—by raising cattle, feeding them from your products and depositing their manure upon the soil again. That farmer must rapidly approach poverty who continues to crop his fields with grain and give no return. The plant must be fed, and there is no food so natural and applicable to the wants of the plant as well preserved barn yard and stable manure. Well preserved—mark that, for that manure is not well preserved which is exposed to sunshine or storm, or is left in large heaps with no absorbent to prevent heat and evaporation. Who have been most successful as farmers in the west? Those who have ignored stock altogether, and cultivated grains for market—not for feed? This is a question for each reader of ours to consider. We need make no assertion. You have only to look for a solution to the farmers of your own neighborhood. We know men who pay large prices for stimulating manures, and use large quantities of them, and yet their barn yards steam from April to April again, with the evaporation of manure heaps whose value, real permanent value, is as great, pound for pound, as the purchased stimulant. It is claimed that grain can be grown cheaper and with more profit than stock.—There are sections where water is scarce, fencing difficult; to be obtained, (and no man should raise cattle without good fences,) when for a while it may be more convenient to grow grain. But there is scarcely a location where water may not be obtained by digging or boring. Fencing must be secured sooner or later, and the labor of attending to a herd does not compare with the labor of sowing, harvesting and threshing. But the herdsman may not and should not cease the cultivation of cereals. We advocate a mixed husbandry. It insures the husbandman independence. If grain is low or unmarketable, he has other resources. His young stock, his oxen, his cows, his butter and cheese afford him revenue, or he has other grains than the one or two great staples, wheat and corn—barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, millet, broomcorn, peas, &c., or of vegetables turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, beans, &c., &c., or of fowls, turkeys, geese, &c. He is a happy and prosperous man who can combine these different departments of husbandry in the cultivation of his farm. Talking on this subject with a farmer who practices it, he said, "The advantage is, that it is constantly yielding an income. You have something to turn off at all times."

FATTENING CATTLE.—Owing to the great improvement caused by the diffusion of short-horn blood, the fattening stock very often consists of two-year-olds. It consists, also, of three-year-old bullocks, and heifers, and east cows. These should be all tied up in houses by themselves, as they are fed in a different manner from the younger stock; and it is of great importance that such cattle as are intended for the butcher should be disturbed as little as possible.

EVERY failure is a success when it leads to renewed exertions, on a higher plane, with a nobler object or improved capabilities. And any success, but the highest of which one is capable, is a failure.

ATTACH a treadle to your grindstone. It will save the trouble of a man when you can idly spare it from the field. See to it; make a treadle.

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